

Let me be clear. Anti-Semitism, bigotry, extremist attacks and police brutality are not found only in Russia. Our own country has not been immune to these challenges to rule of law and human dignity.

Nevertheless, as Russia accedes to the chairmanship of the G-8 and the Council of Europe, there will be increased scrutiny of its commitment to internationally recognized standards of human rights practices. I urge the authorities in Russia to do everything in their power to combat ethnic and religious intolerance and safeguard the religious freedom and physical safety of all its citizens.

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW HOLT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about Matt Holt, who has served the Senate with distinction for 25 years. As a benefits and retirement counselor and deputy for employee benefits and financial services in the Senate Disbursing Office, Matt Holt has committed his talents and energy to serving Senators and staff for over two decades.

His career here in the Senate has been exemplary. He is not only hardworking and dedicated but also friendly, helpful, and patient. He always takes the time to fully answer our questions, and he has become a tremendous resource for the Senate Disbursing Office.

Matt is truly an asset to the Senate, and all of us here in the Senate community are grateful for his outstanding dedication and hard work. An avid outdoorsman, Matt is looking forward to spending time fishing, camping, and hiking with his wife Jeanne and his children Jessica and Ben. He leaves with our appreciation and best wishes for a happy and relaxing retirement. He certainly has earned it.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 89

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I rise today to say a few words about a special group of constituents. This April marks the 50th anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 89 of Downers Grove, IL. Teenagers move a mile a minute. Something that is "cool" in the morning may be forgotten by the afternoon. But Scouting is one institution that has maintained a central role in the lives of many young people in Illinois and around America.

Boy Scouts learn about and enjoy the outdoors, build friendships for life, and strengthen values such as teamwork, honesty, and respect for others. Downers Grove is a quiet residential village west of Chicago and a good place to instill these lessons. Some troops last longer than others, but Troop 89 has served the boys of Downers Grove since before I was born. That is a singular achievement, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize it. To the Boy Scouts, parents, and friends of Troop 89, my heartiest congratulations on your 50th anniversary.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5335. A communication from the Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Use of Diagnostic Code Numbers; Schedule of Ratings—Neurological Conditions and Convulsive Disorders" (RIN2900-AM32) received on January 16, 2006; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5336. A communication from the Director, Regulations Management, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Elimination of Copayment for Smoking Cessation Counseling" (RIN2900-AM11) received on January 16, 2006; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5337. A communication from the Director, Regulations Management, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Traumatic Injury Protection Rider to Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance" (RIN2900-AM36) received on January 16, 2006; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5338. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of the Navy Report of Violation of Administrative Control of Appropriation Regulations Case 04-01; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-5339. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Army, case number 02-06; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-5340. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Health, United States, 2005"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5341. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, reports entitled "The National Healthcare Quality Report 2005" and "The National Healthcare Disparities Report 2005"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5342. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Fiscal Year 2005 Report on Competitive Sourcing; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5343. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Competitive Sourcing Official, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Fiscal Year 2005 Competitive Sourcing Report; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5344. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Funding Notice for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans" (RIN1210-AB00) received on January 16, 2006; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5345. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Food Additives Permitted for Direct Addition to Food for Human Consumption; Synthetic Fatty Alcohols" (Docket No. 1994F-0153) received on January 16, 2006; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5346. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of the Anabolic Steroid Control Act of 2004" (RIN1117-AA95) received on January 16, 2006; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5347. A communication from the Clerk of Court, United States Court of Federal Claims, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the United States Court of Federal Claims for the year ended September 30, 2005; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5348. A communication from the Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Energy Outlook 2006"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5349. A communication from the Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Locality-based Comparability Payments" (RIN3206-AK78) received on January 16, 2005; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5350. A communication from the Chief, Border Security Regulations Branch, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Port Limits of Rockford, Illinois" (CBP Dec. 05-38) received on January 26, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5351. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to conflict of interest laws relating to executive branch employment; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5352. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2005; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5353. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on the Threat of Terrorism to U.S. Ports and Vessels"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5354. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Energy's Fiscal Year 2005 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5355. A communication from the General Counsel, Government Accountability Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to bid protest decided in fiscal year 2005; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5356. A communication from the Director, National Gallery of Art, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to competitive sourcing for fiscal years 2003, 2004, and 2005, and planned competitions for fiscal year 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5357. A communication from the Chairman, National Mediation Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to competitive sourcing for fiscal years 2003,